

Message Text

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56

ACTION SY-05

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O 041600Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5808

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DEPT FOR SY/FO AND NEA/EGY; KARACHI FOR CO CO"B"

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC MILI EG

SUBJ: SGT. MARTIN CAMERANESI

REF: A) CAIRO 10415 (NOTAL) B) CAIRO 10414 (NOTAL); AND

MSGBN 03 1903Z AUG 76 //N01000// (NOTAL)

1. REF (A) FORWARDED IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST THROUGH RED CROSS FROM CAMERANESI'S FATHER. REF (B) STATED SNM INVOLVED IN SHUFFLE WITH EGYPTIAN NATIONALS AND REPORT WOULD FOLLOW. ALLEGATIONS STATED REF (C) BASED ON TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SNM AND SISTER LIVING IN INDIANA. FATHER RESIDES IN WISCONSIN. THELPHONE CONVERSATION MADE TO REQUEST SISTER PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CAMERANESI'S FIANCE (EGYPTIAN NATIONAL NABILA AYAD KALINA). IF CAMERANESI COULD OBTAIN VISA AND ASKED SISTER TO INFORM FATHER NOT TO COME TO EGYPT AS SCHEDULED TWO MONTHS HENCE. HE ALSO RELATED HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THEATER INCIDENT AND THESE WERE EITHER MISUNDERSTOOD OR EXAGGERATED.

2. SUMMARY OF EVENTS ON AUGUST 3, 1976. SGT. CAMERANESI, HIS FIANCE, NAB ILA AYAD KALINA, AND RONALD JUDY, AN AMERICAN STUDENT AT EL AZHAR UNIVERSITY, WENT TO A LOCAL CINEMA TO SEE "THE MAN WHO LOVES CAT DANCING".

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AFTER THREESOME TOOK THEIR SEATS, 4 YOUNG EGYPTIAN MALES

OCCUPIED SEATS NEXT TO FINANCE. AFTER EGYPTIANS MADE SOME DEROGATORY COMMENTS IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC ABOUT EGYPTIAN GIRLS WHO GO OUT WITH FOREIGNERS, SNM CHANGED SEATS SO THAT FINACE WAS BETWEEN THE TWO AMERICAN MEN. COMMENTS CONTINUED AND AT ONE POINT SNM STATED " LOOK, I SPEAK ARABIC AND YOU ARE TALKING LIKE ANIMALS. WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE QUIET". EGYPTIANS CONTINUED TO MAKE COMMENTS. THESE WERE FOLLOWED BY THE CRUDEST INSULT IN ARABIC. CAMERANESI DOES SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND ARABIC AND HE RETURNED THE INSULT WITH ADDITIONAL ADJECTIVE. LARGEST EGYPTIAN STOOD UP DEMANDING AN APOLOGY AND PREPARED TO FIGHT. RON JUDY (SPEAKS FLUENT ARABIC) GOT BETWEEN THEM AND CALMED THINGS DOWN AND AMERICAN THREESOME FOUND SEATS IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THEATER.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 1145 HOURS, MOVIE WAS OVER, AND AS THREESOME DEPARTED THEATRE THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY THE FOUR EGYPTIANS WHO AGAIN DEMANDED AN APOLOGY. SNM REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSULTED FIRST AND REFUSED. RON JUDY HELD BACK IN LOBBY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH TWO EGYPTIANS AS SNM AND FINANCE ATTEMPTED TO MOVE AWAY. WHEN TWO GOT OUTSIDE THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY OTHER EGYPTIANS WHO STRUCK AT FINANCE AND AS SNM PROTECTED HER THEY ALSO STRUCK AT HIM. AFTER SUFFERING A NUMBER OF BLOWS SNM SINGLED OUR LARGEST EGYPTIAN AND DECKED HIM WITH FOUR OR FIVE PUNCHES TO UPPER BODY AND HEAD. RONALD JUDY WAS BY THEN ALSO INVOLVED IN SHUFFLE IN LOBBY.

4. AT THIS POINT USMC SGT. PHILLIP MILLER AND DEPENDENT SON FREDERICK EILTS WHO HAD ATTENDED SAME MOVIE, SAW RONALD JUDY AND WENT TO HELP. THEY FORMED CORDON BEHIND SNM AND FIANCE AND MOVED THROUGH EXITING MOVIE CROWD. SNM AND GIRL WERE PLACED IN TAXI BUT GAHTERING CROWN PREVENTED TAXI FROM DEPARTING. THEY EMERGED FROM CAB AND HEADED FOR EMBASSY ON FOOT ACROSS TAHRIR SQUARE. ROUTE TOOK THEM BY LARGE MUNICIPAL BUSS STATION AND ONE EGYPTIAN YOUTH KEPT SHOUTING "THAT FOREIGNER HAS BEAT UP TWO EGYPTIANS". HE WAS POINTING TO JUDY NOT SNM. LARGER CROWD GATHERED AND ANOTHER ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PUT SNM AND FINANCE IN PRIVATE CAR THAT HAD STOPPED TO OFFER HELP BUT AGAIN CROWDS PREVENTED VEHICLE FROM PROCEEDING. THE WENT AGAIN ON FOOT. ANOTHER PRIVATE VEHICLE OFFERED HELP AND WITH ASSISTANCE OF AN UNUNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER AND ARMY OFFICER, SNM AND FINACE GOT INTO VEHICLE AND PROCEEDED TO NEAREST POLICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATION. THEY ARRIVED THERE SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT. SGT. MILLER AND FREDERICK EILTS RETURNED TO EMBASSY FOR HELP. NCOIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR BOTH NOTIFIED AND BOTH PROCEEDED TO POLICE STATION. EMBASSY CONTACT COL. METAWA OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR NOTIFIED AND HE ARRIVED AT STATION AT ABOUT 0130 HOURS. HE TOOK SEPARATE STATEMENTS AND LATER THREESOME ALSO GAVE COMPLETE STATEMENTS TO POLICE AS DID TWO EGYPTIAN NATIONALS WHO HAD BEEN AT SCENE AND HAD OFFERED THEIR ASSISTANCE,

AND ACCOMPANIED SNM AND FINANCE TO POLICE STATION. AT APPROXIMATELY 0100 HOURS NABILA WAS SENT FROM POLICE STATION TO LOCAL HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL CHECK. SHE RETURNED IN ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR STATING THAT SHE WAS OK AND HAD RECEIVED AN INJECTION (APPARENTLY FOR SHOCK). SHE APPEARED TO BE SLIGHTLY BRUISED; THERE WERE SMALL WELTS ON HER ARM WHERE SHE WAS STRUCK BY BELTS.

5. SNM WAS CERTAINLY NOT BEATEN AT POLICE STATION. TOTAL TIME AT THE STATION WAS LESS THAN FOUR HOURS. SNM RETURNED TO MSG RESIDENCE AND OTHERS INVOLVED RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. DURING SHUFFLE, SNM LOST WALLET AND FINANCE LOST WATCH, PURSE AND SHOES.

6. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY POLICE THAT EGYPTIAN BEATEN BY SNM MAY BE IN BAD CONDITION. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT. IF REPORT POSITIVE WE WILL ADVISE.

7. RIGHTLY OR WRONG, EGYPTIANS IN GENERAL TAKE A VERY DIM VIEW OF FOREIGNERS DATING EGYPTIAN GIRLS. THIS IS THE SECOND RECORDED INCIDENT IN WHICH CAMERANESI HAS PHYSICALLY AND ORALLY REACTED TO INSULTS DIRECTED TOWARDS HIS FINANCE. HE WAS CAUTIONED EARLIER AGAINST ANY RPT ANY REACTION AND IN GENERAL TO AVOID AREAS WHERE PROBLEMS MIGHT DEVELOP. WHILE SNM'S ACTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED CHIVALROUS, IF HE HAD NOT RESPONDED TO ORIGINAL INSULTS OR HAD APOLOGIZED AFTER HE, IN TURN, INSULTED THE EGYPTIANS, THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT MAY REPEAT MAY HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. ALL MARINES HAVE AGAIN BEEN INSTRUCTED TO AVOID PUBLIC LOCALES WHERE PROBLEMS OF THIS SORT MIGHT OCCUR.
ELTS

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